

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

**March 5, 2002**

**7:00 PM**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Sysyn.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, Lopez,  
Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Absent: Alderman O'Neil

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Mayor Baines stated before we let JoAnn begin her comments, I know a lot of you are here to speak about the ordinance that has restricted the activity that you are going to speak about. There is a proposal that is being brought in at the regular meeting to change that ordinance this evening. Just so you know, I did draft a letter to the Committee on Administration and I believe the Committee on Administration heard that and Alderman Gatsas do you want to speak briefly on that.

Alderman Gatsas replied the Committee voted unanimously 5-0 to change the ordinance to leave the discretion up to the Committee for any changes and we also made a

recommendation to suspend the rules and not refer it to Bills on Second Reading or Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration.

JoAnn St. Pierre, 70 Charlotte Street, Manchester stated:

I think the reason those of us who signed up to speak was to clarify a couple of points about the Relay for Life and perhaps not everyone on the Board knows about Relay for Life. It is the American Cancer Society's signature event and although it is a fundraiser, it is actually bigger than that. It is a community event that allows us to celebrate survivorship and also gives us an opportunity to help reduce the burden of cancer in our community. Relay for Life has components that not only celebrate survivorship but allows us an opportunity to remember those who have lost their lives against cancer and it gives us an opportunity to share the information we provide to the community on a daily basis regarding education, patient services and advocacy efforts. Hundreds of cancer patients in the Manchester area receive rides daily to their doctor's appointments for cancer treatment. Breast cancer patients are matched with a breast cancer survivor to help them cope with the issues. We have work going on with the local Manchester partnership for Tobacco Free Youth to work on youth consumption and initiation of tobacco products and we have an opportunity to talk about issues that cancer patients, their families and people in general should be concerned with regarding the health of our citizens. It truly is a community event and I would invite you to join us at any point during the 18 hours that we will hold the Relay in May. I will let the others speak now.

Heidi Lawrence, 71 Harold Street, Manchester stated:

First of all I want to say thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak tonight. I am also with the Relay for Life Committee. I have been involved with the Relay for Life for five years now and chaired it last year and am chairing it again this year. What I want to bring a point to is that the Relay really brings a sense of community to the people. We had over 1,000 people come last year and every single one of those people will say hello to you and go out of their way to help another person. It is a great event. It brings community to the entire surrounding region and the Relay is all about helping people and learning about cancer. It is a great event. I can't say enough about it. Again, we welcome you to come and look at the Relay and see what it is all about and meet the participants and the survivors and experience the event. Thank you.

Jodie Milewsky, 120 Ellingwood Street, Manchester stated:

I just want to say that last year was my first year doing the Relay and the reason I got involved with Relay was that in October of 1999 my thirteenth month old daughter was diagnosed with cancer. She is three years old today and the reality is we don't know if she is in remission or not and we have to live with this everyday. Last year, the Relay raised over \$104,000. For me that is \$104,000 towards finding a cure to cure her and so

many others like her. I don't want to look at her one day if she were to relapse and say don't fight because there is nothing that we can do for you. I want to look at her and say keep fighting because the research is there and we are going to find a cure. I don't want to let her down and last year I walked the whole 18 hours straight because I was so motivated the whole time. The people there...it is like one big family. I didn't know what to expect going into the Relay. I had no idea what it was all about. We formed a team and went in and it was amazing – the emotions and to see the people there. Hannah was walking around constantly. She didn't stop. It was almost like she knew that this was for her and everybody else there. By letting us do this, I can tell you that you could possibly change her life and so many others. Thank you.

Julie Baron, 50 Pheasant Lane, Manchester stated:

I will just add a few comments. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity tonight. I am here as the daughter of a cancer survivor so this event means so very much to all of us but the Relay for Life kind of has a life beyond itself. As people were mentioning before it really unites the community with this common cause and this common passion and you can feel the energy while you are there. Actually we are really proud that there is an event in Manchester because there are 2,500 now around the country and as the American Cancer Society's signature event, it really mobilizes all of the efforts of the Cancer Society so that we can really support the research and advocacy and the prevention and detection programs that we are doing in the community. One of the things that it has made possible around the country is a 24-hour line that cancer patients and people in the community can call seven days a week to get cancer information and talk to professionals and nurses and people who can be there for them so that is kind of exciting.

Jerry St. Jean, 516 Upland Street, Manchester stated:

I won't speak much about it but my wife is a survivor of Ovarian cancer and last year we had the opportunity to get involved in this walk, which was all night long. It was very uplifting and very positive for us and to meet so many people who have gone through this. Thank you for listening to us this evening. I feel that this is very important for the residents of Manchester and it is for a good cause.

Dave Parker, Milford, NH stated:

I have been asked by some of the citizens of Manchester to speak as I am from Milford and I apologize for that. I have been involved in Relay for Life for six years. In fact, my wife asked me on her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday...I asked my wife what she would like to do on her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday and she said she wanted to participate in Relay for Life as she is a cancer survivor. So I got involved and I have been involved for six years. As the logistics chairperson for the last three years, I can guarantee you that it is an incredible event and

the amount of support that you get from the people who come to the event make logistics easy and make the event a wonderful time. You will be surprised how things go so smoothly. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

Eric Sawyer, 40 Wilmot Street, Manchester stated:

I am an engineer and I grew up here in Manchester and left to go to school and then was employed in a defense industrial complex. After returning to Manchester a few years ago I made acquaintance with the Mayor and he asked me to sit on his Citizens School Facilities Committee. I spent some 1,200 hours looking at our school issues and with that kind of time involved I will be the first to say that I am not a pontificator for the Mayor. I thought I would share with you...first in the essence of brevity I have assembled two thick binders and this is the table of contents of those binders and they are available electronically and in paper. I believe the paper copies are at the School District right now. This other paper is a source of references where you can search out school related issues on the Internet and other places. You will find that school construction and architecture is a niche industry and there are a lot of good resources in that area. On a personal note, I would like to say a few things about some things that I was concerned about when I looked at this issue originally. First I was concerned that if we renovate our older schools are we going to bring them to contemporary standards just as we did when we renovated City Hall. I spent a good deal of time talking with the Fire Department and Building Commissioners about that. Rather than go into it, it is in my written statement here. The second thing is I wanted to see a business strategy that would not only fix the problem in a current time period but fix it into perpetuity and the only way we can do that is if you guys change it or the City Charter changes or some other method. You do, I think, have a similar method that you use to keep bridges in repair. The next thing I want to say is if there was some modern technology that we could bring to bear for stuff that has typical life cycle repair costs associated with it like roofs, gym floors, etc. I also was concerned about the portable issue. I wanted to look at some construction and I did that removes the unpalatableness of having portables and provides immediate permanent classrooms in a quick, affordable and efficient manner. I made a few recommendations in that area. The other thing I want to point out is that the condition that Manchester faces with schools is not a unique condition. The American Society of Civil Engineers has reported that more than 80% of the schools in communities across America are in essentially the same condition as Manchester schools. There have been a lot of really good innovative approaches to solving the problem and to that end what we have is not an unsolvable problem. I have worked on what I used to call Star Trek problems going where no man has ever gone before. This is not one of those kinds of problems. I guess in conclusion one of the things that you always find in problem-solving or looking at these types of things is the greatest commonality is there needs to be a will to solve the problem. Without a will to solve the problem you will never get it done whether it is

going to the moon and building a space shuttle or an aircraft carrier or whatever. It just won't happen. This isn't that kind of problem. We are a nation of buzz words and I will give you a few words that came from NASA – faster, better, cheaper. This one came from Don Rumsfeld the other day – do it right, do it once. I will leave those words with you and you are more than welcome, if you can't find any of these resources I will be more than happy to provide them to you. The other thing I wanted to say is that the Committee's report is in essence only a list of bulleted items. It is a list of headlines and requires substantial explanation.

Billy Dodd, 181 Mammoth Road, Manchester stated:

I like to see people who are attentive when other people are speaking. Aldermen DeVries and Garrity, you get a thumbs up for paying attention tonight. There is an old saying that we learn from our mistakes and déjà vu. In the paper today we are going to do it all over again. I never said that the civic center was not a good idea. I complained about the contracts you wrote for it. Why don't we bring Mr. Skip Ashooh back in and let him negotiate the contracts for the new ballpark? Let him give away the secret parking deal that was made and nobody knew about it. I said it before that it would come back to bite you and it has. The naming rights, the pouring rights and the luxury box revenue...the management company for the civic center gets more than we did and they have nothing invested. We paid for everything. Let's do it again guys. Pay attention, ask some questions, rattle the trees and get those skeletons out of the closet. It was a good idea that you guys came up with on removing the parking meters on Saturday. Excellent. The thing is though that you have some lost revenue there that was counted on to run the outside of the civic center. Now we have some budget cuts that we are talking about. Taking a little bit from every department to make up for those lost revenues. Well that is tax dollars going to run the civic center, which we were told was not going to happen. To make up for those lost revenues, does anybody know where Bedford Street is? It is in Ward 6. You have to find it, it is out of the way but somehow \$15 parking tickets are being issued like crazy to make up for the \$10 parking tickets that you can't get downtown anymore. On a positive note there was an article in the paper a couple of weeks ago about a gentleman that came up with an idea of some islands south of the Amoskeag Dam and making them into some parks and making some arched bridges from the mainland over to them. I have been before this Board before and said do something in Manchester like Portsmouth has done with Prescott Park and put flowers in. That is an excellent idea that guy has and that is the perfect place to turn that into a place for people to come from all over the State to come to a unique place and look at something like Prescott Park. The last thing, Mr. Mayor, is complaint sitting. The City Solicitor has been sitting on a complaint from a member of this Board for about three months. My question is why hasn't that complaint been forwarded to the Police Department for a proper inquiry? I hope you can look into it.

Donna Parker, Manchester stated:

I first want to thank all of you for listening to all of the phone calls you received in the past few weeks and a special thank you to Matt Normand who listened to all of my concerns over the past few weeks. He was wonderful. As far as information for the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life", which is being held on May 17 and 18, we have a team captain's meeting coming up on March 12 at the NH Tower Building, 1750 Elm Street. For anyone looking for information to join a team or help volunteer it is 1-800-640-7101. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk